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Editorial Introduction to the Northeast Journal of Complex Systems (NEJCS)

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Editorial Introduction to the Northeast Journal of Complex Systems (NEJCS)

Hiroki Sayama and Georgi Georgiev, Editors-in-Chief

Academic publication has always been a critically important component for the advancement of science, which heavily depends on rigorous evaluation of validity, accuracy and soundness of discoveries made and the methodologies used, as well as swift, effective dissemination of such discoveries.

The Open-Access (OA) publication movement that became widespread over the last few decades is a meaningful response to the traditional *hidden-behind-the-paywall* publication model that had kept scientific knowledge under control by publishers. There is no doubt that the OA movement has significantly enhanced the accessibility to scientific knowledge. Recently, however, the OA movement has gradually transformed into something rather different from what it originally aimed at. A number of traditional, established publishers jumped onto the bandwagon of the OA movement and developed a new business model for scientific publication out of it. Author Publication Charges (APC) kept going up over time, and some OA journals nowadays carry price tags that are so prohibitive that researchers with limited resources may not even try to submit their work to them. This is becoming a serious problem particularly for junior researchers at early stages in their career, and especially those who work in interdisciplinary research topics.

The Northeast Journal of Complex Systems (NEJCS) is launched by the community of Complex Systems researchers in the US Northeast region to provide a solution to the above challenge. As the official journal of the Complex Systems Society US Northeast Chapter, NEJCS serves as an open-access publication venue that is completely free for everyone, including authors, readers, libraries, and the public. Editors and reviewers also work “for free” as this journal is run by many volunteers. This is made possible by the editorial management and support provided by the Center for Collective Dynamics of Complex Systems and the Open Repository @ Binghamton (ORB) initiative at Binghamton University, State University of New York. Even though its name carries the word “Northeast”, this journal is open to everyone regardless of geographical locations. International contributions are more than welcome as well.

Like most other academic journals, NEJCS conducts a rigorous peer review process by multiple reviewers for each submission, and only those that successfully passed the peer review are published. In fact, being free from business or financial restrictions brings the control of scientific publication back to researchers, which allows us to direct our full attention solely to the quality, rigor and relevance of the work published in this journal. We are by no means under pressure to publish more papers or papers with sensational taglines to attract media attention. We aim to

grow NEJCS to become *the right place* to publish any scholarly work that contributes to Complex Systems, as long as it is of high quality, rigor, and relevance.

NEJCS will be particularly helpful for researchers with limited resources (e.g., junior faculty, postdocs, graduate students) to publish their novel contributions. Moreover, this journal allows for swift dissemination of scientific findings without an extensive editorial process involved; we expect that a typical turnaround time from submission to publication will be a couple of months if revisions are minor. NEJCS can also provide a perfect framework for organizing special issues on non-traditional niche topics that few existing publishers would be interested in. In short, this journal opens up a number of possibilities that are currently not doable in the existing scientific publishing systems.

NEJCS is an entirely volunteer-based initiative, and its success will depend on your participation as an author, a reader, a reviewer, and possibly an editor. Please consider submitting your work, and volunteer to review submitted manuscripts. Please read and cite papers published here so that this journal is recognized as a viable, valuable venue of dissemination of scientific discoveries. Our hope is that NEJCS will rise to become a selective yet accessible channel of scientific publication for everybody, and thereby promote the development of a strong Complex Systems researchers' community in the coming decades.

About the first issue

The inaugural issue of NEJCS is a special issue on "*Complex Systems in Education*," guest-edited by Matthijs Koopmans (Mercy College, USA), Dimitrios Stamovlasis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), and Hiroki Sayama (Binghamton University, USA). It collects six papers presented at the Third Satellite Symposium on Complex Systems in Education that was held at the 2018 Conference on Complex Systems (CCS 2018) in Thessaloniki, Greece, on September 27, 2018.